

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/085,208

Applicant(s)

BINDER, DOUGLAS B.

Examiner

PHUC H. TRAN

Art Unit

2668

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/26/02.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/3/02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-7 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-7 are allowable over the prior art of record since the cited references taken individually or in combination fails to particularly disclose a method for determining which of a plurality of switches directly connect to a host, wherein ones of said switches comprise at least one port, comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a database from forwarding table information from plural switches on a subnet; (b) parsing the database to determine switch connectivity information that may be missing from the database information obtained from a given switch; determining the ports on which ones of the plurality of switches are connected to the host; (d) determining the ports on which ones of the plurality of switches are connected to other ones of said plurality of switches; (e) selecting a first switch of said plurality of switches; and for said selected switch, determining whether other switches in said plurality of switches are connected to said selected switch on the same port as said selected switch is connected to said host, thereby determining whether said selected switch is directly connected to said host; further comprising the steps of: (g) selecting a next switch; (h) repeating step (f) and (g) for each of said plurality of switches, thereby determining all switches which are directly connected to said host.

An apparatus for determining which of a plurality of switches on a network directly connect to a host, wherein ones of said switches comprise at least one port, comprising: a network interface for connecting with the network and exchanging data therewith; a processor

for generating a database of forwarding information from switches, determining switch interconnectivity for plural ones of switches, determining the ports on which ones of the plurality of switches are connected to the host, and for determining the ports on which ones of the plurality of switches are connected to other ones of said plurality of switches, and for selecting a first switch of said plurality of switches, and for said selected switch, determining whether other switches in said plurality of switches are connected to said selected switch on the same port as said selected switch is connected to said host, thereby determining whether said selected switch is directly connected to said host.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Trans et al. (U.S. 2003/0086515 A1) discloses channel adaptive equalization precoding system and method.

Dobbins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5951649) discloses network interconnecting apparatus having a separate forwarding engine object at each interface.

Yuasa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6085238) discloses virtual LAN system.

Krishnaswamy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6909708 B1) discloses system, method and article of manufacture for a communication system architecture including video conferencing.


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUC H. TRAN whose telephone number is (571) 272-3172. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chieh M. Fan can be reached on (571) 272-3042. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Phuc Tran
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2664

P.t
12/8/05



PHUC TRAN
12/8/05